



LOVE WITHOUT FEAR

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

The Church of Jesus Christ – we have high hopes. God has high expectations for us. But they're not too high – because He has given us the truth. He wants us to be a people of *love without fear* – taking the Restored Gospel to those that have lost hope in this world. Taking the message of love and the everlasting Gospel to all of the House of Israel starting with the Tribe of Joseph. That is the expectation God has for us. And it's not too much, it's not too high. It's what we can do if we dedicate ourselves to *love without fear!*

An excerpt from an address by Apostle Joel Gehly, newly elected General Church President, given at General Church Conference, October 14, 2018

Many months ago, Brother Joel Gehly received a message for the Church, that we should, *love without fear*. He was sitting at his desk early one morning just talking to the Lord as he has done many times. On that morning he was asking God about the Church. He said, "Lord what do you want to tell the Church? What is the message that our Saints, that the Church, need to hear?" He did not hear a physical voice, but that He knows in his heart when God speaks to him. He clearly heard three words that morning – *love without fear*.

Since that morning he had been thinking about the message and contemplating what it means to, *love without fear*. Over the past four or five months he has had many thoughts on this subject and how he might deliver a sermon on *love without fear*. Brother Joel confessed that, "there wasn't much sleep last night," as he continued to consider what he should say. Despite his concerns, he believed God wanted him to tell The Church of Jesus Christ why this message is so important in this day and time – today, the Church needs to hear that God wants us to increase our love. Brother Joel said, "I know that you love but I believe God wants us to love now at a different level than we have ever loved before."

As Brother Joel contemplated the message that came into his being that day all kinds of scriptures came to his mind. He said, "We know Christ told us the greatest commandments of all, 'Love God, with all of our heart, with all of our mind, with all of our soul.' Have you ever considered how you love God with your soul? That's what the Lord wants from us now, to love Him with our mind, and our heart, and our being. And, He wants us to love one another." He said it is easy to love our family and friends, especially when we are all together, but that God wants us to go beyond what is easy, to love everyone, even when it is hard to love and even when it is fearful to love.

Brother Joel then read several scriptures and commented on the verses:

Isaiah 58:6, Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

"That's love. That's *love without fear*."

Isaiah 58:7, Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

“Isn’t that *love without fear*? Can we do that?”

Isaiah 58:8-9, Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer, thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

“That is *love without fear*. God will respond. God is waiting for The Church of Jesus Christ to break out of the fear that we have been in: Fear of the stigmatism of the Book of Mormon; fear of being ridiculed because you proclaim the name of Jesus Christ; the fear that you don’t feel comfortable sharing your testimony. But all of us have felt the overwhelming love of Jesus Christ in our life, and to love God with all of our soul, means to put aside our fears and to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. Amen?”

Isaiah 58:10, And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

At this point Brother Joel asked Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., to relate an experience. Brother Bob related that when he retired to bed on Thursday evening, thinking about the blessings and progress made at the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists meeting, he could not sleep and prayed about the work before us, finally drifting off to sleep. A noise awoke him about three or four in the morning. He sat up listening and out of the darkness came three trumpet blasts that physically vibrated the room. The dark room then became bright – a light brighter than he had ever seen – so bright that it hurt his eyes. He closed his eyes and heard the voice of the Lord proclaim, “Hear the Lord of all. My people will see that great are the promises I have laid up. The world will know great are the promises to soon come. Great and wonderful are the things soon to be seen, great and wonderful are the things you shall do. My people will know, my people will see, the time is at hand.” When “the time is at hand” was spoken it was not only one voice, it was a multitude of voices. Then silence, the darkness was gone, and for a second he wondered if it had been real – but he could feel the stinging in his eyes – and then he knew it was real.

Brother Scott Griffith then spoke in tongues and translated the words: “Prepare now, prepare now for this is the day – thus saith the Lord.”

Brother Joel continued, “So the word of God says,
Isaiah 58:10 repeated, And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

“Our brother experienced that. He told me when he looked back at the bed where [his wife] was sleeping, and even though the trumpets had blared the sound and the room was as bright as noonday the message was given to our brother as Sister Chris was sleeping peacefully.

Love without fear.”

Brother Joel continued reading,

Isaiah 58:11-14, And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

“Love without fear.”

“Church of Jesus Christ let us change to a people that *love without fear*. No longer are we the same people. Our weekend has been discussion on ways to improve ourselves and I believe the Lord is showing us and telling us and speaking to us, that the only way that Israel will come back – it will come back to a pure gospel. It will come back to a people that are following the commandments of God, and love God with all their hearts, and with all of their soul. That’s The Church of Jesus Christ that Israel will return to. That’s who I want to be. That’s who I want you to be. We are the people of God.”

“I was led to the Church that Alma started at the waters of Mormon. Alma was speaking to his people. It says,

Mosiah 18:21-22, And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another. And thus he commanded them to preach....

“And this is what happened. It says, ‘*And thus they became the children of God.*’ I want to be [one of] the children of God. I want us all to be the children of God.”

“We have a mission. The Church of Jesus Christ has a mission. I want to repeat it to you today:

The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ, and to draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

That is the mission of a people who *love without fear*. A people who are not afraid of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“I want to conclude with the words of two early presidents of The Church of Jesus Christ. The first was William Bickerton. At a conference of The Church of Jesus Christ in the 1850’s he spoke the word of the Lord. I want to remind us of this today because we heard the experience of our Brother Bob that it is now, it is time. God wants us to be the people of God. He wants us to fulfill our mission:

Hear oh my people. This is the word of the Lord unto you today. The Church must be one, and my people one, for unto you is committed the work of God in these the last days, and you, my servants, feed the flock of God over which I have made you

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overseers, for great is the responsibility that rests upon you, for unto you are given the keys of this last ministry and to lift the last warning voice to the world. Therefore, be faithful to the end of your calling.

And I believe this message is not just for the ministry. The word of the Lord given to William Bickerton is for all of The Church of Jesus Christ today. We are the last voice. We are the people of love today. In a world that is without love, confused by love, misunderstanding love. Unto you He has given us the responsibility to fulfill our mission.”

“William Cadman said this. He was the second president of the Church:

Now my brothers and sisters we have high hopes and expectations – not the least too high inasmuch as they are true.

I always found these words to be very profound. The Church of Jesus Christ – we have high hopes. God has high expectations for us. But they’re not too high – because He has given us the truth. He wants us to be a people of love without fear – taking the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations, kindreds, tongues and people. Taking the Restored Gospel to those that have lost hope in this world. Taking the message of love and the everlasting Gospel to all of the House of Israel starting with the Tribe of Joseph. That is the expectation God has for us. And it’s not too much, it’s not too high. It’s what we can do if we dedicate ourselves to *love without fear*. May God bless you today.”

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles believe that God has given The Church of Jesus Christ important direction as we move forward. This article serves as both a reminder and an incentive for all of us to “Love without fear.” We need to understand that God expects us to be a loving people and that we should demonstrate our love to the Church at large, our families, friends and everyone we meet. It is up to us to examine our own lives, to see where we might improve, and then follow up by concentrating on being more loving. May God help us to do so.

In the Love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles